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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

PAGE

COTTON
- U.S. Cotton Exports in Running Bales 30
- Brazil's Cotton Exports and Production Decline 30
- Sudan To Sell Cotton by Tender Instead of Auction 31

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS
- Canadian Butter Production Continues Low 19
- Argentine Casein and Butter Exports Rise Sharply Until Banned 19
- Netherlands Sets Increased Milk Prices 20
- Australia Studies Butter Market Possibilities in India 20

FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS
- Union of South Africa's Major Oilseed Production Continues Upward Trend 20
- Pakistan's 1956-57 Oilseed Acreage Down Slightly 22
- Rhodesia and Nyasaland Expect Increased Peanut Production in 1957 23
- Iraq's 1957 Production of Fats and Oils Expected To Be at 1956 Level 24
- Ecuador's Vegetable Oil Imports Up in 1956 25
- Philippine Copra Exports in April 32

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS
- Israel Continues Expansion of Citrus Production 26
- Brazil Nut Exports for 1956 Reach Record Levels 27
- Australia To Launch Campaign Against Brown Rot 27
- Cuban Mango Season Starts Early 28
- Canada Imports Record Amounts of Fruits and Vegetables from U.S. 28

(Continued on following page)

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CONTENTS

(Continued from Cover Page)

Page

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, SEEDS, AND FEEDS
Italian Corn Production Increasing..... 6
West Germany's Grain Prospects Good..... 7
Yugoslav Grain Outlook Bright..... 8
Canada's July-April Wheat and Flour Exports Estimated at 245 Million Bushels..... 8
Argentina Drops Wheat Subsidy, Increases Corn Price..... 10
U.S. Rice Exports Show Sharp Increase..... 10
India Produces Record Rice Crop..... 13

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS
Argentina Acts To Increase Canned Corned Beef Exports..... 14
U.S. Lard Exports Down 23 Percent in January-March..... 14
Australian Wool Prices Slightly Higher..... 16
Mexican Health Permit Needed for Edible Tallow Imports..... 17
British Honduras Imports More Meat..... 17
Meat Shortage in Venezuela..... 18
Australia Slaughters Fewer Livestock..... 18

TOBACCO
Sweden Imports More Unmanufactured Tobacco in 1956..... 3
Cigarette Output Continues To Rise in Belgium..... 3
Danish Tobacco Imports Up Sharply in 1956..... 4
Finnish Imports of U.S. Leaf Continue To Rise in 1956..... 4
Egypt Consumes More American-Type Cigarettes..... 5
Uganda Expanding Tobacco Production..... 5
Renewed Greek-Netherlands Trade Agreement Includes Tobacco..... 6

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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SWEDEN IMPORTS MORE UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO IN 1956

Swedish imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1956 rose to 19.0 million pounds, compared with 16.6 million in 1955. Imports from the United States increased from 12.0 million pounds in 1955 to 12.5 million in 1956. Larger quantities of oriental leaf were imported from Greece and Turkey in 1956, and imports from Italy and Brazil were larger.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Sweden, imports by countries of origin, 1954-56

Country of origin	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	11,704	12,031	12,498
Brazil	952	335	562
Greece	1,199	668	1,349
Turkey	2,194	593	919
Italy	686	445	549
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	1,206	1,354	1,054
Other	1,978	1,206	2,077
Total	19,919	16,632	19,008

1/ Preliminary

The American-blended cigarette is very popular in Sweden. Consumers in that country are used to a high quality product and imports of U.S tobacco will probably continue to supply the major portion of this market.

CIGARETTE OUTPUT CONTINUES TO RISE IN BELGIUM

Cigarette output in Belgium increased to 9.5 billion pieces in 1956, compared with 9.2 billion in 1955. Total factory using of tobacco in all products at 54.5 million pounds in 1956 were the largest since 1951 but still below the 1937-39 annual average of 56.4 million pounds.

Consumer demand, reflected in output, continues to swing to cigarettes in preference to other products. (In 1956, 25.6 million pounds of tobacco were used in the manufacture of cigarettes, compared with 22.9 million used in smoking mixtures.) Nearly 34 million pounds of tobacco were used annually in smoking mixtures prewar in contrast to 15.1 million pounds for cigarettes.

During 1937-39, cigar output averaged 190 million and cigarillo output averaged 586 million pieces annually. Output of both was sharply reduced in the immediate postwar period but has increased in recent years. In 1956, output of cigars rose to 127 million pieces, and cigarillo output at 612 million exceeded the prewar annual average.

DANISH TOBACCO IMPORTS UP SHARPLY IN 1956

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco in Denmark increased sharply in 1956, amounting to 26.6 million pounds; in 1955 they were 21.3 million. Takings of U. S. leaf increased from 10.4 million pounds in 1955 to 14.0 million in 1956. Representatives of the Danish tobacco industry, however, report that the rise in imports does not signify any increase in purchases. It is the result of manufacturers' accumulating large quantities of leaf in Danish free ports and clearing it through customs in 1956 to build up factory stocks as well as for immediate use.

Danish imports of U. S. leaf probably will not vary greatly in the future unless tobacco of similar quality can be purchased elsewhere at lower prices. The American-blended cigarette seems likely to hold its favored position and imports of U. S. leaf will probably therefore share in the modest annual increases in tobacco usings.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Denmark, imports by country of origin, 1955 and 1956

Country of origin	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	10,440	13,984
Brazil	4,613	5,977
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	2,083	1,715
India	389	466
Indonesia	2,431	2,721
Other	1,309	2,024
Total	21,265	26,587

1/ Preliminary

FINNISH IMPORTS OF U. S. LEAF CONTINUE TO RISE IN 1956

Finland's imports of U. S. leaf in 1956 reached 4.8 million pounds, compared with 4.4 in 1955, and were the largest on record. Increased imports of U. S. leaf have depended on two factors: (1) the rapid increase in demand for American blended cigarettes, and (2) the availability of dollars with which to purchase U. S. tobacco. In recent years, imports of U. S. tobacco have been facilitated through purchases under Public Law 480.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Finland, imports by country of origin, 1954-56

Country of origin	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	3,933	4,395	4,793
Greece	3,460	2,899	3,114
Turkey	2,322	2,354	2,146
Soviet Union	471	349	368
British South Africa	91	49	51
Other	842	1,129	1,024
Total	11,119	11,175	11,496

1/ Preliminary

Imports from Greece increased slightly in 1956, while those from Turkey declined. Combined imports from these 2 countries were at about the same level as in 1955. Imports from the Soviet Union increased slightly from the 1955 level but still accounted for only a small part of the total imports. Imports from British South Africa, at about the 1955 level, remainded small.

EGYPT CONSUMES MORE AMERICAN-TYPE CIGARETTES

Egyptian demand for American-type blended cigarettes continued to increase in 1956--amounting to 50 percent of total cigarette consumption. In comparison, it was 46 percent in 1955, and 42 percent in 1954. Oriental cigarettes continued to decline in popularity, while straight flue-cured brands remainded at about the same level of recent years. Demand for filter-tip cigarettes was up last year. Major brands use filters, but a shortage of materials for making them limits output to some extent.

UGANDA EXPANDING TOBACCO PRODUCTION

The tobacco marketing season in Uganda, British East Africa, has commenced, and production is expected to be higher than for many years. Virtually all the crop is grown in the Mubende area. Fire-cured production in the Mubende area is placed at 450,000 pounds and air-cured at 273,000 pounds, compared with the 1956 total harvest of 641,000 pounds. The quality of the leaf, according to British sources, is only average, due to dry weather in June and July of 1956. Wet weather during last September also interfered with curing.

RENEWED GREEK-NETHERLANDS TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

The Trade Agreement of February 5, 1953, between Greece and the Netherlands was reportedly extended and modified for another year through an exchange of notes on March 12, 1957 between the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Ambassador in Athens.

The new agreement is valid from February 1, 1957 through January 31, 1958, and includes Greek leaf tobacco as one of the items available for export in exchange for Dutch goods. Trade between the 2 countries will continue to be governed by the liberalized import regulations currently in effect in both countries or such regulations as may later be introduced in implementation of any decision made by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Greece's leaf tobacco exports to the Netherlands during the past 3 years averaged 715,000 pounds annually.

ITALIAN CORN PRODUCTION INCREASING

Hybrid corn is playing an important part in Italy's increasing corn production, as pointed out in a recent article in the Giornale d'Agricoltura, an important Italian agricultural weekly. A table showing estimates of acreage planted to hybrid corn and the results achieved is reproduced below:

Year	Area planted to hybrid corn		Production increase due to use of hybrid seed (bushels)
	Acres	Percent of total corn acreage	
1948	3,700	1.0	87,000
1949	106,700	3.6	134,000
1950	86,500	2.8	1,925,000
1951	232,300	7.5	3,940,000
1952	308,900	9.8	8,660,000
1953	486,900	15.5	13,940,000
1954	593,000	18.8	13,230,000
1955	691,900	22.7	21,650,000
1956	790,700	25.0	23,620,000

Italy's corn crop of 1956, according to this estimate, was over one-sixth greater than it would have been without the use of hybrid corn. Italian corn yields during the past 2 years averaged about 40 bushels per acre, compared with 32 bushels during 1935-38. Acreage, though somewhat higher than a few years ago, was still about one-eighth below the prewar level, according to official figures; nevertheless production during the past 2 years averaged 130 million bushels, compared with 116 million bushels during 1935-38.

The future is likely to bring not only a continued rapid expansion in the use of hybrid varieties on existing corn acreage, especially in Northern Italy, but also some further shift of acreage from competing crops to corn. If the Italian livestock industry continues to develop, it will be able to absorb a considerably higher production. In 1956 Italy imported nearly 18 million bushels of corn.

WEST GERMANY'S GRAIN PROSPECTS GOOD

The outlook for the 1957 grain crop is promising in West Germany, according to recent reports. The winter was unusually mild, and winterkill was negligible. Moisture in both top soil and subsoil has been ample, and grain condition at the end of March was officially reported as somewhat better than it was a year earlier.

The season is 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal. Spring seeding got under way earlier than usual and crops have sprouted well. If reasonably favorable growing conditions continue, another large grain crop may be expected this year. In addition to the mild season and ample moisture supply, increases in acreage and in the use of fertilizer add to the good prospects.

The increase over 1956 acreage is in food grains; a small decline is reported for total feed grain acreage. An increase of about 275,000 acres is forecast for all food grains, with the bulk of the increase in wheat acreage. Most of the reduction in the feed grain acreage was in oats, that reduction offsetting an increase in winter barley acreage.

Use of commercial fertilizer appears to have increased substantially this season. The increased use is largely attributed to the price subsidy under the Green Plan. Favorable weather conditions also contributed to added use of fertilizer.

YUGOSLAV GRAIN CROP OUTLOOK BRIGHT

Grain conditions in Yugoslavia at the beginning of May are described as good to excellent. If growing conditions continue favorable, a wheat crop equal to the large 1955 harvest may be expected. And, if current prospects materialize, import requirements may be 20 percent less than the present level. That would be a cut to 44 million bushels from 55 million, the stated requirements for the current season.

Improved grain condition followed needed rains in late April. General rains relieved the dry conditions resulting from lack of rain during most of February and March, as well as early April. Winter wheat and rye benefited more than any other crops, but the rains also aided germination of spring-sown barley and oats. Improved soil moisture conditions also made corn planting feasible. Increased use of hybrid corn seed, greater use of fertilizer, and other favorable factors point to higher per-acre yields than the good yields in 1955, barring unfavorable weather developments.

Wheat, as well as corn, is more heavily fertilized than usual this season and has made rapid growth since the April rains. Crops are now in a normal state of development for this time of year, winter grains having made a good recovery after the late seeding of last fall. Seeding was late because dry weather held up preparation of seed beds.

CANADA'S JULY-APRIL WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 245 MILLION BUSHELS

Canada's exports of wheat and flour during the first 10 months of 1956-57 are estimated at approximately 245 million bushels, compared with 209 million during the same period a year ago. The total for the first 10 months of this year includes official customs returns for July-February and export clearances for March and April.

Official customs returns showing destinations are available only through February. The principal destinations for this period, in millions of bushels, with comparisons for a year earlier shown in parentheses, were: United Kingdom, 71.9 (65.0); West Germany, 33.7 (13.9); Japan, 23.0 (19.5); Belgium-Luxembourg, 11.6 (8.2); the Netherlands, 8.9 (4.8); Switzerland, 6.4 (3.2); United States, 5.7 (5.5); Czechoslovakia, 4.4 (none); Philippine Republic, 4.2 (3.4); U.S.S.R., 4.1 (none); Norway, 3.8 (2.4); and Poland, 2.6 (6.2).

Export clearances for March 1957 show that 5.7 million bushels of wheat went to the United Kingdom, 1.1 million to Switzerland, 1.5 to Japan, and 5 million to miscellaneous countries, making a total of 13.9 million bushels moving out in that month.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canada, exports by country of destination
July-February 1955-56 and 1956-57

Destination	July-February 1955-56			July-February 1956-57		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	4,992	496	5,488	4,657	1,025	5,682
Central America	45	1,323	1,368	78	942	1,020
British West Indies	23	3,563	3,586	14	3,464	3,478
Cuba	228	421	649	1	252	253
Colombia	-	174	174	-	95	95
Venezuela	58	2,578	2,636	57	2,263	2,320
Ecuador	825	-	825	330	-	330
Peru	210	32	242	2,489	17	2,506
Others	13	1,074	1,087	-	1,030	1,030
Total	6,394	9,661	16,055	7,626	9,088	16,714
Europe:						
Norway	2,412	-	2,412	3,794	-	3,794
United Kingdom	57,906	7,088	64,994	63,780	8,144	71,924
Ireland	1,997	-	1,997	3,169	-	3,169
Netherlands	4,769	1/	4,769	8,935	6	8,941
Belgium-Luxembourg	8,041	188	8,229	11,194	393	11,587
France	-	1	1	1,471	-	1,471
West Germany	13,704	207	13,911	33,718	1/	33,718
Austria	1,739	-	1,739	753	-	753
Czechoslovakia	-	-	-	4,371	-	4,371
Switzerland	3,214	-	3,214	6,371	1/	6,371
Poland	6,170	-	6,170	2,599	-	2,599
Russia	-	34	34	4,127	-	4,127
Italy	3,199	166	3,365	2,770	3	2,773
Others	1,558	161	1,719	1,964	184	2,148
Total	104,709	7,845	112,554	149,016	8,730	157,746
Asia:						
Pakistan	-	-	-	1,008	1/	1,008
Philippines	-	3,376	3,376	-	4,214	4,214
Japan	19,003	470	19,473	22,329	625	22,954
Others	1,798	1,253	3,051	1,583	1,396	2,984
Total	20,801	5,099	25,900	24,925	6,235	31,160
Africa:						
British West Africa	-	895	895	-	936	936
Union of South Africa	2,443	-	2,443	1,002	-	1,002
Others	369	667	1,036	237	375	612
Total	2,812	1,562	4,374	1,239	1,311	2,550
Oceania	-	71	71	-	45	45
World Total	134,716	24,238	158,954	182,806	25,409	208,215

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

ARGENTINA DROPS WHEAT SUBSIDY, INCREASES CORN PRICE

Two recent actions by the Argentine Government affect marketing of grain.

A decree effective April 10 has abolished the longstanding subsidy on wheat for domestic milling. The new price for wheat sold to millers is set at the equivalent of $1.13 per bushel. The same decree removed the fixed minimum price from flour and wheat by-products. All exportable wheat by-products may now be commercialized freely.

In another government action, on April 9, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that an additional premium, equivalent to 31 U.S. cents per bushel, will be paid for corn to be exported. The domestic support price is the equivalent of $1.21 per bushel. Payment of the new premium is to be financed from funds formerly intended for the subsidy of wheat--now discontinued--and from the Fund for Economic Reconstruction, established in October 1955. This government move is aimed at encouraging corn exports despite the low level of the crop now being harvested. The crop is currently being estimated at from 105 to 110 million bushels, compared with 152 million a year ago and the prewar average of 302 million.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS SHOW SHARP INCREASE

United States exports of rice in March totaled 3,331,000 bags (100 pounds), compared with 1,202,000 bags in March 1956. About 84 percent went to Asia. India continued to be the principal importer of United States rice, taking 1,746,000 bags, and the Republic of Korea was the second largest, with 899,000 bags.

Rice exports during the August-March period of the current marketing year totaled 18,313,000 bags (see table p. 12), almost 2½ times those of the corresponding period of the year before, and 60 percent more than the full marketing year of 1955-56. Countries taking rice this year which took none last year are Indonesia, 4,872,000 bags; Republic of Korea, 994,000 bags; Turkey, 218,000 bags; and Surinam, 20,000 bags. On the other hand, shipments to Japan have declined from 2,382,000 to 93,000 bags during the current August-March period.

RICE: U.S. exports, by country of destination and by classification, March 1957 1/

Country of destination	Rough		Milled		Total (in terms of milled)
	Unmilled	In terms of milled 2/	Not over 25% whole	Over 25% whole	
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Western Hemisphere:					
Canada	42,166	27,408	0	19,222	46,630
Guatemala	260	169	0	66	235
British Honduras	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
El Salvador	700	455	0	0	455
Costa Rica	1,020	663	0	0	663
Canal Zone	0	0	0	300	300
Bermuda	0	0	0	1,587	1,587
Cuba	19,852	12,903	0	305,254	318,157
Jamaica	0	0	97	558	655
Haiti	0	0	0	200	200
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	2,903	2,903
Venezuela	26,702	17,356	0	360	17,716
Total	90,700	58,954	97	335,450	394,501
Europe:					
Sweden	0	0	0	2,615	2,615
Netherlands	0	0	0	15	15
Belgium-Luxembourg	0	0	0	57,159	57,159
France	0	0	0	163	163
Switzerland	0	0	0	2,240	2,240
Western Germany	0	0	3,549	0	3,549
Greece	0	0	0	1,521	1,521
Total	0	0	3,549	63,713	67,262
Asia:					
Lebanon	0	0	0	66	66
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	8,410	8,410
India	0	0	0	1,745,822	1,745,822
Pakistan	0	0	0	143,284	143,284
Korean Republic	0	0	0	899,153	899,153
Japan	0	0	0	971	971
Total	0	0	0	2,797,706	2,797,706
Trust territory of the Pacific	0	0	0	150	150
Liberia	0	0	0	65,309	65,309
Union of South Africa	0	0	0	4,200	4,200
Destination not specified	570	371	0	1,101	1,472
World total	91,270	59,325	3,646	3,267,629	3,330,600

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Rough rice converted at 65 percent.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

RICE: U.S. exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries, March 1957, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July 1954-55	August-July 1955-56	August-March 1955-56	August-March 1956-57 2/	March 1956	March 1957 2/
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	560	397	320	268	18	47
British Honduras	33	35	29	13	4	5
British West Indies	5	8	7	86	1	2
Cuba	3,391	2,927	2,422	2,939	418	318
El Salvador	3/	44	2	3/	3/	3/
Haiti	124	5	3	55	1	3/
Netherlands Antilles	38	28	20	26	2	3
Bolivia	0	191	153	176	0	0
Colombia	205	13	10	1	0	0
Venezuela	84	32	32	36	16	18
Surinam	0	0	0	20	0	0
Other countries	35	148	70	52	44	2
Total	4,475	3,828	3,068	3,672	504	395
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	460	298	153	553	1	57
France	3/	78	3/	1	0	3/
Austria	23	5	2	2	2	0
Western Germany	38	53	27	5	0	4
Netherlands	71	31	5	50	0	3/
Sweden	72	8	9	16	3/	3
Switzerland	53	22	19	58	2	2
Other countries	97	7	2	27	1	1
Total	814	502	217	712	6	67
Asia:						
India	0	215	215	4,047	0	1,746
Indochina	0	220	220	10	0	0
Indonesia	0	516	0	4,872	0	0
Japan	4,125	2,383	2,382	93	1	1
Korean Republic	3/	1	0	994	0	899
Pakistan	0	2,653	662	3,364	662	143
Philippine Republic	25	28	22	20	0	0
Saudi Arabia	136	75	63	86	0	8
Turkey	0	3	0	218	0	0
Other countries	11	35	18	17	4	1
Total	4,297	6,129	3,582	13,721	667	2,798
Total Oceania	19	39	24	29	3	3/
Liberia	219	276	134	157	16	65
French West Africa	0	625	416	0	0	0
Other Africa	10	21	15	14	1	5
Destination not specified	14	26	17	8	5	1
World total	9,848	4/11,446	7,473	5/18,313	1,202	3,331

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 cwt. 4/ Does not include an estimated 700,000 cwt. which is the milled equivalent of ground rough rice sold by Commodity Credit Corporation for export as animal feed; nor 966,639 cwt. of supplementary exports by welfare organizations. 5/ Does not include 1,457,647 cwt. exported by welfare organizations during August through December 1956, the latest period for which data are available.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

INDIA PRODUCES
RECORD RICE CROP

Final official estimates place India's 1956-57 rice production at a record high of 28,100,000 long tons of milled rice, compared with the revised estimate of 26,800,000 tons in 1955-56. (In terms of rough rice the 1956-57 crop is 94,500 million pounds, 4,400 million pounds more than last year.) This indicates an increase in production of 5 percent over the preceding year, although acreage increased only 1.7 percent.

Rice acreage in 1956-57 is officially estimated at 78,200,000 acres, compared with 76,900,000 acres in the year before. The previous record acreage was 77,300,000 acres in 1953-54. The 1956-57 production is higher by about 300,000 tons (1,000 million pounds of rough rice) than the previous record production of 27,800,000 tons in 1953-54.

RICE: India, acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1945-46/49-50, annual 1950-51 to 1956-57

Year	Acreage planted	Yield per acre	Production	
			Rough rice	Milled rice
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1945-46 49-50	71,500	1,063	76,000.0	50,600
Annual:				
1950-51	76,135	975	74,200.0	49,420
1951-52	73,713	1,017	75,000.0	49,950
1952-53	74,056	1,107	82,000.0	54,610
1953-54	77,318	1,209	93,500.0	62,270
1954-55	75,949	1,106	84,000.0	55,940
1955-56	76,900	1,172	90,100.0	60,000
1956-57 1/	78,200	1,208	94,500.0	62,940

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official figures and estimates of Foreign Agricultural Service.

ARGENTINA ACTS TO INCREASE CANNED CORNED BEEF EXPORTS

The Argentine National Meat Board has announced the removal of the 15 percent export tax on canned corned beef. The action is expected to act as a stimulus to canned corn beef exports.

Large supplies of beef have been available for canning in Argentina, but canning plants have been operating at reduced volume since consumer subsidies on meat were removed in February 1957. Prices of canner cattle during 1956 declined materially.

During 1956, the United States imported 72.7 million pounds of canned beef. Almost 90 percent of it came from Argentina. United States imports of canned beef from Argentina during the first quarter of 1957 were 20.5 million pounds, an increase of 36 percent over the same period in 1956.

U.S. LARD EXPORTS DOWN 23 PERCENT IN JANUARY-MARCH

United States exports of lard during January-March 1957 totaled 136.1 million pounds, compared with 175.9 million pounds shipped during the corresponding period in 1956. Although United States exports to North America markets were up about 11 percent in the first quarter of 1957, the increase was not nearly enough to compensate for a very substantial decline in trade with practically all major European and South American markets.

The principal reasons for the reduction in trade with European markets were higher United States prices and a sharp drop in exports under International Cooperation Administration and Public Law 480 programs.

Higher import duties, as well as increased competition from domestically produced vegetable fats, accounted for most of the loss in trade with South American markets.

United States exports of lard to South America dropped from 12.7 million pounds in the first quarter of 1956 to only 778,000 for the same period this year. Substantial reductions in lard imports by Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia were mainly responsible for the overall drop in shipments to this area.

Exports to Europe, the major market for United States lard in 1956, were also down considerably in the first 3 months of 1957; they dropped from 99.3 million pounds shipped in January-March 1956 to only 67.5 million for the same period this year. Reduced shipments to West Germany, the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Austria, and the Netherlands accounted for nearly all of the decline.

LARD, INCLUDING RENDERED PORK FAT: U.S. exports, by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1955-56, and January-March 1956-57

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1955	1956 1/	January-March 1956 1/	January-March 1957 1/	January-March 1957 Increase or decrease (-)
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America:						
Canada	2,077	7,308	17,726	2,890	6,655	3,765
Costa Rica	1,186	8,208	5,300	1,920	474	- 1,446
Cuba	39,912	167,004	163,131	45,746	50,456	4,710
Dominican Republic	460	-	-	-	3	3
El Salvador	5	5,392	3,430	825	1,182	357
Guatemala	395	12,642	7,215	4,178	837	- 3,341
Haiti	645	6,360	5,107	882	2,375	1,493
Mexico	5,499	20,314	14,538	2,443	2,979	536
Netherlands Antilles	307	418	215	-	31	31
Canal Zone	157	1,018	941	39	59	20
Panama, Republic of	1,033	3,238	4,067	912	1,322	410
Other	284	2,779	1,752	347	698	351
Total	51,960	234,681	223,422	60,182	67,071	6,889
South America:						
Brazil	1	6	10,417	4,417	-	- 4,417
Bolivia	15	6,829	7,159	3,896	612	- 3,284
Colombia	3,741	2,852	1,448	953	-	- 953
Ecuador	801	2,787	4	-	-	-
Peru	32	9,274	5,986	3,381	56	- 3,325
Venezuela	3,221	1,659	657	50	110	60
Other	13	91	1,703	0	0	0
Total	7,824	23,498	27,374	12,697	778	- 11,919
Europe:						
Austria	2/	21,378	26,807	6,409	4,317	- 2,092
Belgium Luxembourg	2,460	233	711	33	-	- 33
Czechoslovakia	1,654	-	-	-	-	-
France	29	25	-	-	-	-
Germany, Western 3/	2,536	68,689	70,099	18,592	7,112	- 11,480
Greece	1	12	24	22	5	- 17
Italy	707	289	167	115	2	- 113
Netherlands	330	19,204	4,303	2,675	-	- 2,675
Poland	39	661	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	218	293	386	45	73	28
United Kingdom	95,733	167,732	161,067	47,004	40,202	- 6,802
Yugoslavia	4	20,682	88,496	24,388	15,694	- 8,694
Other	1,937	899	457	33	89	56
Total	105,648	300,097	352,517	99,316	67,494	- 31,822
Soviet Union	4	-	-	-	-	-
Asia	36	3,768	3,404	889	752	- 137
Africa	158	20	44	1	-	- 1
Oceania	6	8	-	-	-	-
World total	165,636	562,072	4/ 612,118	5/ 175,910	5/ 136,130	- 39,780

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Austria included with Germany. 3/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 4/ Included 5,357,030 pounds the final destination of which has not yet been designated. 5/ Includes a small quantity the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Wool auctions were held in Brisbane and Geelong during the week ending May 3, 1957. Some 103,000 bales were scheduled for sale in this series, which was the first held following the Easter recess.

Strong competition continued, principally among purchasers from the Continent, Britain and Japan.

The average price was about 3 percent above the amount received for the week ending April 12, 1957.

WOOL, RAW: Australia, average costs per pound on auction floors, clean basis, by quality classification, weeks ended May 4, 1956, April 12, 1957, and May 3, 1957

Type and grade	Week ended		
	5-4-56	4-12-57	5-3-57
	U.S. dollars per pound		
Combing wools:			
70's Good	1.39	1.69	1.70
Average	1.33	1.62	1.64
64's Good	1.23	1.57	1.61
Average	1.20	1.53	1.57
60's Good	1.09	1.47	1.51
Average	1.05	1.43	1.47
58's Good	.97	1.35	1.39
Average	.94	1.29	1.32
56's Good	.89	1.22	1.27
Average	.86	1.19	1.23
50's Good	.80	1.07	1.13
Average	.78	1.04	1.10
Carding wools:			
Merino	.94	.93	.96
Comeback	.76	.83	.86
Fine Crossbred	.71	.78	.81
Medium Crossbred	.69	.78	.80

Source: Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau

MEXICAN HEALTH PERMIT NEEDED FOR EDIBLE TALLOW IMPORTS

The Director of Customs for Mexico recently notified all custom houses that, effective May 3, 1957, imports of edible tallow will be prohibited unless a permit for them is obtained from the Ministry of Health. The notification also provided that samples of edible tallow must be sent to the Director of Customs for the purpose of testing quality.

BRITISH HONDURAS IMPORTS MORE MEAT

Meat imports by British Honduras continued to rise in 1956, and the total exceeded 850,200 pounds. The United States supplied about one-fourth of the total 1956 imports.

The Government of Honduras cancelled its restrictions on imports of pork products from the United States on May 15, 1956, and since then imports of pickled pork from the United States have increased sharply. Imports from the United States accounted for about 35 percent of the colony's total pickled pork imports for the year. The United States supplied 28 percent of the hams and bacon, 24 percent of the canned meat, but only 17 percent of the pickled and cured beef imported during 1956.

Development of the cattle industry in British Honduras has been hampered by price ceilings. Uniform price ceilings for different classes and grades of slaughter stock have discouraged production of the better grades. Hog production is severely limited, due to the low production of feed grains. Although livestock numbers in Honduras are small, meat imports are restricted because population is not large, and cold storage facilities are lacking or limited. Imports of meat totaled more than 12 pounds per person last year.

MEAT: British Honduras, imports 1952-56 1/

Item	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Bacon and ham, cured....	36.3	44.6	34.0	65.2	66.2
Pickled pork.....	322.7	292.2	218.0	213.1	251.4
Pickled beef.....	57.8	116.5	145.9	146.4	220.1
Canned meats.....	192.6	230.3	176.2	277.1	312.5
Total.....	609.4	683.6	574.1	701.8	850.2

1/ Excludes frozen meat and other minor items.

MEAT SHORTAGE IN VENEZUELA

Low rainfall and high temperatures have characterized the first quarter of 1957 in Venezuela. Rivers are at their lowest levels in the past 35 years. Heavy cattle losses are reported to have occurred because of lack of water and inadequate forage. The condition of slaughter cattle is poor. As a result, there is a shortage of meat in the major cities.

AUSTRALIA SLAUGHTERS FEWER LIVESTOCK

Slaughter of all kinds of livestock dropped in Australia during 1956. The drop was most evident in sheep and lamb slaughter. Wool prices have been good for sometime, and instead of slaughtering old ewes, many producers are keeping them for wool production. Likewise, many ewe lambs have been held back from slaughter. Producers have been aided by unusually good pasture conditions. There were more-than-normal rains in 1956, and grazing conditions were good during the first quarter of 1957. Rabbits--formerly a menace in Australia--have been largely controlled by myxomatosis disease.

Recent unfavorable prices and good pastures have led cattle producers to build up their herds and reduce slaughter. An improvement in prices or a dry season would cause increased slaughter and a consequent reduction in cattle numbers.

Although hog slaughter dropped in 1956, an increase is expected in 1957. Hog prices are high and feed is plentiful. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 11, 1957.)

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: Australia, 1952-56

Year	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	1,000 head	Percent change 1/	1,000 head	Percent change 1/	1,000 head	Percent change 1/
1952	3,624	- 6	19,934	+53	1,466	- 6
1953	4,254	+17	20,879	+ 5	1,484	+ 1
1954	4,550	+ 7	22,459	+ 8	1,706	+15
1955	4,588	+ 1	21,487	- 4	1,940	+14
1956	4,494	- 2	18,900	-12	1,734	-10

1/ From previous year.

CANADIAN BUTTER PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOW

Canadian creamery butter production, estimated at 29.1 million pounds during the first quarter of 1957, is 21 percent below the same period last year and the lowest since 1952. The decline is attributed to increased sales of fluid milk and cream and increased production of cheddar cheese. Also, milk production has decreased due to the seasonal decline and to the low-quality roughage fed during the winter.

The seasonal decline in butter production, more pronounced than usual, was accompanied by increased domestic consumption. To meet the greater demand, one-third more butter was taken out of storage during the first quarter of 1957 than during the same period last year. Butter stocks on April 1 totaled 44.0 million pounds, the lowest since 1954.

Margarine production during January-March was up 4 percent as compared to 1956. However, there has been no apparent shift to margarine consumption, as margarine stocks are now larger than they have ever been during the past 6 years, except for July 1956.

ARGENTINE CASEIN AND BUTTER EXPORTS RISE SHARPLY UNTIL BANNED

Argentina's casein exports during the first quarter of 1957 totaled 10,521 tons, a 51 percent increase over the amount exported during the same period in 1956. Casein producers are holding large stocks in anticipation of higher prices later in the year and the hope that U. S. import duties will be removed. With a favorable price, casein exports from Argentina may reach a record volume in 1957.

Butter exports to April 16 totaled about 11,756 tons, an increase of 232 percent over the same period last year. In attaining this volume, all the 1957 "carry-in" stocks were used and an additional 1,842 tons of the first quarter's production. However, in the latter part of April, to insure domestic supply, the Argentine Government banned all exports of butter and cream until further notice.

The value of all dairy products exported by Argentina, during the first quarter of 1957 was $8.6 million, compared to $7.4 million during the first quarter of 1956. The 1957 value represents 31 percent of Argentina's entire dairy exports in 1956. Until the recent decree banning butter and cream exports it appeared, that Argentina might export more dairy products in 1957 than in any of the past 6 years.

NETHERLANDS SETS INCREASED MILK PRICES

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture recently set the new guaranteed producer price for milk of 3.7 percent butterfat content at $3.37 per hundredweight for the November 1956 to November 1957 year. Farmers located in high cost areas, however, will receive $3.42 per cwt.; the 5-cent differential will be paid by producers in "dark soil" areas where costs of production are lower. Last year's guaranteed producer price was $2.73 per cwt. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, May 14, 1956.)

When the present producer price was announced the government expected to pass the raise on to consumers by raising the retail milk price from 8.7 to 11.2 cents per quart. Under pressure from Parliament, however, the government has agreed to raise the price by only 1.5 cents per quart (69 cents per hundredweight of milk), effective July 1, 1957.

AUSTRALIA STUDIES BUTTER MARKET
POSSIBILITIES IN INDIA

The Travers' Circular, April 13, reports that the Australian Dairy Produce Board has sent one of its members to India and Ceylon to investigate the possibility of selling Australian butter there. With increased production expected in early spring (fall in the United States), and depressed prices on the London market, the Dairy Board is attempting to find new butter outlets. A few years ago Australia had to find markets for 10,000 to 40,000 tons of butter a year, but now it must dispose of 40,000 to 80,000 tons per year.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MAJOR OILSEED
PRODUCTION CONTINUES UPWARD TREND

The 2 major oilseed crops of the Union of South Africa, peanuts and sunflower seed, continue a steady upward trend in production. This trend, plus favorable weather in the crop year of 1956-57, is reflected in exceptional increases in the 1956-57 production. The rise is expected to continue into 1957-58. Production for 1954-57 is indicated below.

Year beginning May 1	Peanuts (shelled)	Sunflower seed
	Short tons	Short tons
1954	1/ 141,730	1/ 56,380
1955	2/ 137,375	2/ 57,795
1956	2/ 157,200	2/ 70,500
1957	3/ 170,000	3/ 80,000

1/ Revised. 2/ Estimated. 3/ Forecast.

Compiled from official sources.

Soybeans are a minor crop in the Union, and the production trend seems to be downward, although the production estimate of the 1955-56 crop indicates a slight increase over the previous crop year.

SOYBEANS: Union of South Africa, production, 1950-55

Year beginning May 1	Short tons	Bushels	Year beginning May 1 1/	Short tons	Bushels
1950	2,800	93,000	1953	1,700	56,000
1951	3,300	1,100,000	1954	1,400	46,700
1952	2,000	66,700	1955	1,500	50,000

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

Castor bean production is expected to expand rapidly in the Union of South Africa as a result of a growing world demand for castor oil. Production in 1956-57 is estimated at 14,000 short tons of beans. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, April 1, 1957.)

The Union's 1956-57 Antarctic whaling season reportedly ended on March 4, 12 days prior to the official closing date, with a yield of 15,040 short tons of whale oil and 5,350 tons of sperm oil. This will be the last Antarctic expedition for at least 5 years, as the floating factory "Abraham Larsen" has been sold to Japanese interests with an agreement on the part of Union interests to refrain from Antarctic whaling for 5 years. Offshore whaling operations will continue off the Natal Coast. In 1956, 6,765 tons of whale oil and 2,812 tons of sperm oil were produced from these offshore operations.

There are no tariffs, export subsidies, or import quotas on vegetable oils in the Union of South Africa.

Exports of peanut oil during the marketing year beginning May 1, 1955 are estimated at 24,500 tons, up about one-third from exports of the previous year, when 18,213 tons were exported.

Peanut exports were also up considerably during the marketing year 1955-56, when 52,904 tons of shelled and 325 tons of unshelled peanuts were exported. Exports of shelled and unshelled peanuts in the marketing year 1954-55 were 37,947 and 319 tons, respectively.

Sunflower seed exports in the marketing year 1955-56 are estimated at 1,600 tons. No sunflower seed was exported the previous year.

PAKISTAN'S 1956-57 OILSEED ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Total acreage planted to oilseeds in Pakistan in 1956-57 is apparently about 56,000 acres lower than in 1955-56. An estimated decrease of 125,000 acres in rape and mustard seed has been offset, in part, by an estimated increase of about 69,000 acres in flaxseed, cotton, and sesame acreages combined.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS: Pakistan, acreage and production, 1955-56 and 1956-57

Oilseed	1955-56 1/			1956-57 2/		
	Area planted	Seed produced	Oil produced	Area planted	Seed produced	Oil produced
	1,000 acres	Short tons	Short tons	1,000 acres	Short tons	Short tons
Cottonseed	3,336	627,000	47,000	3,400	632,000	50,000
Rape and mustard	2,008	360,000	88,000	1,883	352,000	90,000
Sesame	215	40,000	14,000	218	41,000	15,000
Flaxseed	76	15,600	6,700	78	16,800	7,000
Total	5,635	1,042,600	155,700	5,579	1,041,800	162,000

1/ Revised. 2/ Forecast.

Compiled from unofficial sources.

Despite the decline in total oilseed acreage, production from the 1956-57 crops is expected to be almost the same as in the previous year. A slight increase in oil production, about 5,000 short tons, is anticipated because increased quantities of oilseed are being crushed instead of being used for other purposes.

Exports of oilcake go predominantly to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. In 1956, 98,819 tons of oilcake were exported, and 18 percent increase over the 83,715 tons exported in 1955.

Although no castor bean production figures are available, partly due to the fact that most castor beans are grown along irrigation ditches and between fields, exports amounted to 2,950 tons in 1956. Exports of all other oilseeds totaled only 525 tons.

Copra and coconut oil are the main fat and oil imports. They totaled 2,275 and 4,606 tons, respectively, in 1956. Linseed oil imports in 1956 were 970 tons, practically all of which came from the United States under a Public Law 480 agreement. About 895 tons of butter oil were imported last year, 893 tons of which also came from the United States under Public Law 480. As production possibilities for copra and flaxseed in Pakistan are limited, these items, along with minor quantities of other oils and oilseeds, will probably continue to be imported.

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND EXPECT
INCREASED PEANUT PRODUCTION IN 1957

Production of peanuts--the major oilseed crop in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland--is expected to increase in 1957, particularly in Nyasaland, where the incentive of an increased guaranteed price is being officially offered. The new price is 4d. per pound, compared with 3.5d. last year, equivalent to 4.7 and 4.1 U.S. cents per pound, respectively. Peanut production is being specifically encouraged in areas of Nyasaland where repeated efforts to increase cotton production have failed.

Castor bean production, negligible in past years, is also expected to increase in 1957. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 14, 1957.)

Tung nut production and cottonseed production are expected to be down slightly in 1957, while sunflower seed and soybean outputs are expected to be somewhat higher than in 1956.

OILSEEDS: Federation of Rhodesia, and Nyasaland, production 1956, forecast 1957

Item	1956 1/	1957 2/
	Short tons	Short tons
Peanuts (shelled)	100,000	105,000
Cottonseed	3,000	2,500
Sunflower seed	1,300	1,350
Soybeans	150	200
Tung nuts	4,000	3,750
Castor beans	3/	500

1/ Estimated. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Negligible.

Compiled from unofficial sources.

Crushing of oilseeds for oil is confined almost entirely to peanuts and tung nuts. Unofficial estimates of vegetable oil production for 1956 are between 7,000 and 7,500 tons.

Since official statistics on trade in 1956 are not yet available, exports from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1956 have been unofficially estimated as consisting of 35,000 short tons of shelled peanuts, 1,800 tons of cottonseed, and 50 tons of sunflower seed. Oil exports consisted of 950 tons of tung oil and 70 tons of peanut oil.

Imports are unofficially estimated as 2,700 tons of palm oil and palm kernel oil, 270 tons of coconut oil, and 160 tons of linseed oil.

IRAQ'S 1957 PRODUCTION OF FATS AND OILS EXPECTED TO BE AT 1956 LEVEL

Iraq's production of fats and oils in 1956 is estimated at 24,910 short tons. No increase in vegetable oil or animal fat production is expected in 1957.

The types and quantities of fats and oils produced and imported in 1956 were:

Commodity	Short tons
Production:	
Animal fat, principally ghee	16,550
Vegetable oils, domestic	6,600
Imports: 1/	
Vegetable oils	1,750
Lard	10
Total	24,910

1/ January-October.

Cottonseed and sesame are the principal edible oilseeds produced in Iraq, and only cottonseed, of all oilseeds produced, in Iraq, and only cottonseed, of all oilseeds produced, is used to any appreciable extent for commercial production of oil. Larger plantings of cotton on newly-developed land and on established holdings will probably result in increased production of domestic vegetable oils in 1958 and 1959.

The oil industry in Iraq consists of 2 privately owned factories producing vegetable oils and margarine. Approximately 16,500 short tons of domestic cottonseed are available for crushing. Sesame, flaxseed, and copra--the latter imported at the rate of about 2,200 short tons annually--are also used for crushing. Since there are no facilities for storing quantities of edible oils, supply is believed to approximate consumption.

Prices of fats and oils during 1956 were relatively stable, although they rose slightly early in the year, reflecting the general tendency of food prices. After the closing of the Suez Canal there was a general price rise in all categories of imported oils and to some extent in the prices of butterfat and locally produced vegetable oil.

ECUADOR'S VEGETABLE OIL
IMPORTS UP in 1956

Over three-fourths of the vegetable oil supply in Ecuador was imported in 1955 and 1956, and it appears that similar shares will need to be imported for some years. Imports could be artifically restricted, however, in order to foster development of domestic oil-yielding crops. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, April 29, 1957.)

Imports of vegetable oils at the Port of Guayaquil in 1956 were up one-half from 1955. Small quantities of vegetable oils were imported at the Port of Manta. No oil-bearing material--except for one ton of soybeans, probably for planting--was imported in 1956.

Table 1.--VEGETABLE OILS: Ecuadorian imports, 1955 and 1956 1/

Item	1955	1956
	Short tons	Short tons
Edible:		
Cottonseed	583	1,800
Soybean	24	110
Olive	312	57
Total	929	1,967
Palm:		
Palm kernel	-	7
Palm	296	623
Coconut	785	1,629
Total	1,081	2,252
Industrial:		
Linseed	69	72
Castor	-	1
Total	69	73
Other	1,374	848
Total	3,433	5,147

1/ Port of Guayaquil only; small quantities were imported at the Port of Manta.

Compiled from unofficial sources.

(Continued on following page)

The United States supplied over three-fourths of the vegetable oil imported into Ecuador in 1956. Virtually all of the cottonseed and soybean oils, and roughly two-thirds of the coconut and other oils, came from the United States.

Ecuador exports no vegetable oils and, except for castor beans, very little in the way of oil-bearing materials. Castor bean exports in 1956 went chiefly to the Netherlands and the United States. Copra exports in 1956 were small, and in 1955 nil.

Table 2.--OIL-BEARING MATERIAL: Ecuador an exports, by country of destination, 1955 and 1956

Commodity and destination	1955	1956
	Short tons	Short tons
Castor beans:		
United States	5,257	1,525
Colombia	81	156
Netherlands	1,349	3,558
Belgium	283	223
Others	180	56
Total	7,150	5,518
Copra:		
Denmark	--	89

Compiled from unofficial sources.

ISRAEL CONTINUES EXPANSION OF CITRUS PRODUCTION

High prices received during the past winter for Israeli citrus have encouraged the Ministry of Agriculture to plan a continued expansion of citrus groves.

Citrus fruit is the principal item in Israel's agricultural exports and netted about $42 million in foreign exchange in 1955-56. Value of exports may be as high as $50 million this year. At present, Israel has about 27,500 acres of citrus bearing, with an additional 17,600 acres in other stages of growth. Plans now call for expansion to a total area of at least 55,000 acres.

BRAZIL NUT EXPORTS FOR 1956 REACH RECORD LEVELS

Exports of Brazil nuts during 1956 were at record-high levels, according to statistics of Brazil's Ministry of Finance. They amounted to 50,100 short tons (unshelled basis), an increase of 45 percent in tonnage over 1955 shipments. Principal purchasers were the United States and the United Kingdom.

BRAZIL NUTS: Brazilian exports, by country of destination, 1956

Country of destination	Shelled	Unshelled	Total Unshelled basis
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
United States	9,763	3,723	23,250
United Kingdom	5,285	9,714	20,280
Argentina	-	160	160
Belgium	-	152	150
Canada	353	-	710
Denmark	50	78	180
Germany, West	431	3,085	3,950
Norway	33	280	350
Spain	292	364	950
Other countries	31	57	120
Total	16,238	17,613	50,100

AUSTRALIA TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST BROWN ROT

The Australian Government has announced plans for a 3-year program of research on brown rot fungus disease of stone fruits.

It is estimated that the program will cost $22,400 a year. The Commonwealth Government, the Australian Canners Association, the Australian Canned Fruits Board, and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia will meet the operating costs of the program. The Commonwealth Government will supply $22,400.

Industry representatives estimate that about $2\frac{1}{4}$ million worth of stone fruit was lost to brown rot in 1956, half in canning fruit and half in fresh market supplies.

Research will include studies of the causal fungus, the effectiveness of available fungicides, the influence of environmental and nutritional factors, and the possibility of treating fruit after harvest.

CUBAN MANGO SEASON STARTS EARLY

The Cuban mango season started on March 28. Total exports through April amounted to 12,400 crates of 40 pounds each, in contrast to only 500 crates through April of last year. The export season normally ends about June 15.

CANADA IMPORTS RECORD AMOUNTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM U.S.

Reduced Canadian production of fruits and vegetables in 1965 stimulated imports of many important items from the United States.

Canadian fruit imports from the United States reached a total value of $90.3 million in 1956 vs. $76.6 million the previous year. Vegetable imports from the United States in 1956 were valued at $56.3 million, an increase of $9.1 million over 1955.

U.S. JULY-MAY WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 485 MILLION BUSHELS

United States wheat and flour exports for July-May 1956-57 are estimated at 485 million bushels, compared with 293 million bushels during the first 11 months of 1955-56. This estimate is based on actual exports as reported by the Bureau of the Census during July-March, inspections for April, and an estimated total for May.

Actual exports for July-March amounted to 395 million bushels, 50 million bushels more than were exported during the full 12 months of last year. At this date it seems certain that the exports of wheat and flour during 1956-57 will exceed the all-time record of 504 million bushels exported in 1948-49.

Census figures for July-March and inspections of wheat for April 1957 show the following quantities in millions of bushels exported to principal countries of destination, compared with exports for the same period a year earlier, in parentheses: India, 46.7 (3.4); Japan, 42.5 (33.6); United Kingdom, 33.5 (16.2); West Germany, 33.2 (11.7); France, 30.8 (negligible); Yugoslavia, 25.3 (30.0); Pakistan, 21.9 (4.5); Greece, 19.3 (11.0); and the Netherlands, 19.0 (18.1). These figures exclude wheat and flour exported for relief or charity by individuals and private agencies, which amounted to 3.9 million bushels in July-March of 1956-57, compared with 1.8 million in the same period of 1955.56. Destinations are not shown for these exports.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: United States exports by country of destination
July-March 1955-56 and July-March 1956-57

Destination	July-March 1955-56			July-March 1956-57		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	1,573	206	1,779	53	139	192
Mexico	2,425	14	2,439	68	8	76
Central America	614	2,953	3,567	1,086	3,194	4,280
Cuba	1,393	2,633	4,026	2,715	3,132	5,847
British West Indies	-	1,812	1,812	2	4,268	4,270
Colombia	1,752	75	1,827	2,394	48	2,442
Venezuela	68	3,465	3,533	260	4,701	4,961
Peru	3,304	167	3,471	3,237	206	3,443
Bolivia	1,436	828	2,264	2,711	993	3,704
Chile	1,388	4	1,392	4,883	32	4,915
Brazil	12,441	218	12,659	4,556	1	4,557
Paraguay	-	-	-	706	297	1,003
Others	514	2,592	3,106	395	1,063	1,458
Total	26,908	14,967	41,875	23,066	18,082	41,148
Europe:						
Norway	1,302	1,097	2,399	1,734	704	2,438
Denmark	-	7	7	3,446	33	3,479
United Kingdom	11,120	873	11,993	29,381	1,148	30,529
Netherlands	12,929	2,850	15,779	15,708	2,637	18,345
Belgium-Luxembourg	3,481	14	3,495	16,779	19	16,798
France	-	-	-	30,811	5	30,816
West Germany	10,366	1	10,367	31,411	83	31,494
Austria	30	-	30	1,494	3	1,497
Switzerland	134	-	134	7,826	6	7,832
Finland	251	-	251	2,813	-	2,813
Portugal	1,939	123	2,062	5,206	89	5,295
Italy	2,925	950	3,875	6,726	625	7,351
Yugoslavia	24,800	8	24,808	17,331	17	17,348
Greece	9,707	3	9,710	14,993	21	15,014
Others	1,642	35	1,677	2,082	59	2,141
Total	80,626	5,961	86,587	187,741	5,449	193,190
Asia and Oceania:						
Turkey	400	-	400	12,016	-	12,016
Isreal	5,164	8	5,172	7,359	521	7,880
Saudi Arabia	291	1,508	1,799	974	2,960	3,934
India	2,668	38	2,706	32,725	20	32,745
Pakistan	4,537	-	4,537	19,724	2	19,726
Indochina	-	1,256	1,256	-	2,682	2,682
Indonesia	-	406	406	-	3,979	3,979
Philippines	-	3,588	3,588	-	4,930	4,930
Korea	2,950	-	2,950	10,114	463	10,577
Taiwan	5,021	5	5,026	4,664	-	4,664
Japan	32,167	898	33,065	34,682	1,601	36,283
Oceania	-	17	17	-	25	25
Other Asia	208	2,899	3,107	1,934	2,836	4,770
Total	53,406	10,623	64,029	124,192	20,019	144,211
Africa:						
Tunisia	-	-	-	2,848	2	2,850
Egypt	12,504	480	12,984	1,071	358	1,429
Canary Islands	1,849	-	1,849	165	-	165
French West Africa	-	9	9	2,117	6	2,123
British West Africa	-	2,049	2,049	-	2,792	2,792
Others	1,454	1,409	2,863	1,545	1,480	3,025
Total	15,807	3,947	19,754	7,746	4,638	12,384
Unspecified 2/	1,816	540	2,356	1,041	3,064	4,105
World Total	178,563	36,038	214,601	343,786	51,252	395,038

1/ Wholly of United States wheat.
2/ Includes exports for relief or charity for which destinations are undetermined.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS IN RUNNING BALES

United States cotton exports in March 1957 amounted to 787,000 running bales. Total exports in the 8 months, August-March 1956-57, were 5,385,000 running bales. Comparable figures in 500-pound gross weight bales were published in last week's Foreign Crops and Markets.

BRAZIL'S COTTON EXPORTS AND PRODUCTION DECLINE

Brazil's cotton exports of 172,000 bales (500 pounds gross) through the port of Santos, August-March 1956-57, were down more than half from comparable exports a year earlier. Nearly all of Brazil's cotton exports move through this port. Exports from all ports during August-March a year ago were 410,000 bales. The principal reason for the decline in exports during the current period was the reduced supply available and the fact that prices during most of the period were not competitive on world markets except under special bilateral arrangements.

Declining exports were shown for practically all major destinations with the exceptions of Hong Kong and France, which had moderate increases. Quantities exported from Santos during August-March 1956-57, with exports from all ports August-March 1955-56 in parentheses, were: Japan 65,000 bales (110,000); United Kingdom 22,000 (31,000); Hong Kong 21,000 (16,000); France 15,000 (12,000); West Germany 15,000 (38,000); and Italy 13,000 (26,000).

An export quota of 55,000 metric tons (253,000 bales) has been set for the 3 months, March-May 1957, as a result of the reduced South Brazilian 1956-57 crop. Cotton is harvested from March to June in South Brazil, and heavy export volume usually begins in May. Approximately 70 percent of the crop had been picked by the end of April.

Total cotton production in Brazil during August-July 1956-57 is estimated at 1,325,000 bales or 22 percent less than the 1955-56 crop of 1,700,000 bales. Most of the decline was attributed to unfavorable weather throughout Brazil's major cotton-producing areas, and to heavy insect infestation from red spiders and other pests in South Brazil. Poor returns from last year's crop and low prices received by farmers under the government's indirect price support plan were also contributing factors. Cotton acreage was reported to be down from 10 to 20 percent depending on area.

Cotton production in South Brazil for the 1956-57 crop is estimated at 800,000 bales, down 26 percent from the 1955-56 crop of 1,085,000 bales.

Cotton is harvested in North Brazil from August to December. The 1956-57 crop was estimated at 525,000 bales, 15 percent less than the 1955-56 crop of 615,000 bales. Most of the cotton produced in North Brazil is utilized in domestic consumption. Very little moves into export.

Brazil's consumption of cotton during August-July 1955-56 was estimated at 1,050,000 bales, slightly more than the 1,000,000 bales consumed in 1954-55. Some reduction of the consumption rate has been reported for the first months of 1956-57, as manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers have reduced stocks of finished goods.

Stocks of raw cotton on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 650,000 bales, considerably below stocks of 825,000 bales held a year earlier. The limitation of exports, until there is a clear indication of the actual size of the crop now being ginned, would indicate a probable low stock position by the end of July 1957..

SUDAN TO SELL COTTON BY TENDER INSTEAD OF AUCTION

The Sudan Gezira Board, which markets about 75 percent of all cotton produced in the Sudan, discontinued its system of daily cotton auctions April 15, 1957. Hereafter it will sell cotton by tender. The board issues open invitations to tender on certain dates for specified lots of all the different grades of Sudanese cotton normally sold by the board. The first date for submission of tenders was April 18.

The board expects to call for tenders 3 times each week. Any cotton not sold for tender one day will be offered for sale again. Buyers must tender for 50 bales or more of any grade, and must specify the lot or lots required, and if necessary give alternative lot numbers. If any bids are accepted, the board will announce the buyer, identity of the lots and the average price for each quality sold. Preference will be given to those who bid for the largest lots.

The board reserves the right to alter its method of sale if subsequent developments necessitate a change. The decision to sell by tender was approved by the government, and also received the support of the Gezira Tenant's Association.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS IN APRIL

Philippine copra exports in April totaled 68,939 long tons. By destination and quantity, they were as follows: United States--15,750 tons (Pacific Coast--12,764, Atlantic Coast--2,986); Canada--1,500; Israel--3,100; Lebanon--500; Japan--2,627; Denmark--3,100; Belgium--2,000; Germany--2,000; Netherlands--27,862; Sweden--5,000; Norway--500; and Germany-Netherlands-Belgium optional discharge--5,000. Coconut oil exports during April, totaling 7,451 tons, were as follows: United States--5,113 (Atlantic Coast); Netherlands--1,468; and Germany-Netherlands optional discharge--870.

Cumulative shipments of copra and coconut oil during the first 4 months of 1957 were 222,978 tons, oil basis, 2 percent less than the 228,409 tons exported in January-April 1956.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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